(b) No, Sir. The system is continuing as per provisions of the Act.

(c) No, Sir.

Death of a serving Major near Mathura

1577. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dead body of a serving Defence Officer-Major S. Ravi Shankar, was found by Government Railway Police on 23rd of August near Mathura Railway Station and in the autopsy report it was found that many organs including the kidneys, heart, lungs, spleen and gall bladder were found missing;

(b) if so, whether it was a case of murder for taking out human organs or some foreign agency like ISI was involved whose activities have late been on the rise to demoralise our defence forces; and

(c) the outcome of army investigations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The dead body of Maj. S.Ravi Shankar was found on 23.8.2003. However, based on the statement of the Medical Officer, District Hospital, Mathura, the missing organs could have been crushed due to injuries in the accident or spilled over by sudden impact.

The Army Court of Inquiry into the incident has ruled out the possibility of any foul play for removal of organs.

Military Intelligence souces have also confirmed that there is no input available to suggest that the said case was of murder for extraction of human organs or involvement of ISI/any hostile agency.

Supply of speech secrecy equipment by BEL

1578. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Electronics Ltd. supplied speech secrecy equipment to Air Force at a cost of Rs.4.47 crore during December, 1996 to January, 1997;

(b) whether Air Force accepted the equipment inspite of several shortcomings detected during the course of evaluation trial and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this equipment had to be returned in February, 2001 on account of failure to meet the operational requirement; and

(d) if so, the logic behind procurement of defective equipment and responsibility fixed for this misadventure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) Bharat Electronics Ltd. supplied "Analogue Code Message Encryption Multi-Dimensional Communication Secrecy Device" costing Rs.4.47 crore, during December 1996—January 1997, to Indian Air Force.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The pre-production trials were successful but the actual supplies were found unsatisfactory even after modifications carried out by Bharat Electronics Ltd. Hence, they were returned.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c).

Purchasing of secondhand MIG trainers

1579. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently purchased 27 secondhand MIG trainers to meet the urgent training requirement of Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total expenditure incurred thereon and the age of each aircraft;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the East European Countries like Romania and Bulgaria have grounded or withdrawn some of the MIG variants; and

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing such aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government nave not purchased 27 secondhand MIG trainers recently.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.